

set it for the museum at Fleetwood. I understand that he also has recorded a specimen at Preston.

A Large Emerald *Geometra papilionaria* was also in my trap, but had been damaged and attacked by Wood Ants *Formica rufa*. It was bright orange – just like an Orange Moth *Angeronia prunaria*. I believe that injections of formic acid may have altered the emerald pigment. The remains have now gone the traditional brown as one would expect from light exposure.– A.M. GEORGE, Bayhams, Radnage Common Road, Radnage, Buckinghamshire.

***Argyresthia trifasciata* Stdgr. (Lep.: Yponomeutidae) new to Hampshire**

One evening, during a spell of warm, humid weather in early May 1997, I netted a pale moth in my garden (OS grid reference SU 878552). It appeared to be an *Argyresthia* and the size and forewing markings corresponded well with the illustration of *A. trifasciata* in Emmet (1996. *The Moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* 3). Unfortunately, the moth managed to escape when I was attempting to transfer it to a larger container for closer examination. I saw no further similar examples until 20 May 1998 when one appeared in my garden moth trap. This, I was able to set, with considerable difficulty as I was unwell at the time. After close examination I concluded that it must be *A. trifasciata* and this has since been confirmed by Dr John Langmaid, to whom my thanks are due.

The foodplant here is almost certainly *Cupressocyparis leylandii*; there is a large stand of well-grown bushes in neighbours' gardens within a few yards of the spot where the first example was seen. Mr Barry Goater, the moth Recorder for Hampshire, could not recall any earlier records of this species in the county.– R.W. PARFITT, 29 Manor Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7EX.

Notes on the Comma *Polygonia c-album* (L.) and Peacock *Inachis io* (L.) butterflies in the south-east London area

In his account of the Comma, our Editor (Plant, 1987. *The Butterflies of the London Area*: 116) writes: "It would appear that the steady eastwards spread reached London around the early 1930s". It happens that I can push back this estimate by at least a few years: the butterfly was definitely already present in the south-east suburbs by 1926, and almost certainly breeding. I have a very clear memory of seeing (to my surprise) several specimens on michaelmas daisies in the garden of my prep-school at Blackheath in the early autumn term – late September or early-October of that year. I had taken my first, a worn example of the *hutchinsoni* form, in a nettle-fringed alley at Bognor, West Sussex, in August 1924, when it must still have been scarcely known from that county. The plurality of the Blackheath butterflies suggests that the species could well have arrived in the district a few years earlier than when first seen by me.

Turning now to the Peacock, Plant (*op. cit.*: 114) notes it as "essentially absent from the highly urbanised south bank of the River Thames in ... Greenwich", so a few words on its present status in my district of the Greenwich Borough may be in order. In fact I can report it to be general, hereabouts, though far from common; a